

Sound Shake '08

**Assessing the Capability of Citizen
Corps Volunteers to Respond to a
Large-Scale Earthquake**

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Citizen Corps Mission

**To have everyone in America
participate in making
themselves, our communities,
and our nation safer**



Office of Grants and Training



National
Citizen Corps Council



Citizen Preparedness ~ Training & Exercises ~ Volunteer Service

Federal Partner Programs



DHS



DOJ/NSA



DOJ/IACP



DHS/G&T



DHHS/OSG



DHS/USFA
NVFC/IAFF/IAFC

Affiliate
Programs

State Citizen Corps Councils

Tribal / Local Citizen Corps Councils

American Public

Citizen Corps Council



CERT

- 67 Programs in Washington
- 55 of those in Western Washington, majority in the Urban Area
- Capabilities: disaster preparedness and mitigation, small fire suppression, utility control, emergency medical operations, light search and rescue, disaster psychology



MRC

- 18 MRC Units in Washington
- Each unit is a network of volunteers organized to strengthen the health and safety of their communities
- Capabilities: provide medical surge in the event of a disaster, field triage, hospital staffing, capable of administering mass vaccinations and medications, providing counseling.
- ESF #6 Mass Care and #8 Health and Medical Support
- Generally well-organized and trained
- Surge capacity: hospitals are already at capacity



CERT Known Knowns

- Limited SAR capability
- Varying capability with different teams, some highly trained and regularly exercised, for others, CERT is more just public education
- Limited experience with activation
- Many are not registered as emergency workers
- First responder community unaware of CERT



MRC Known Knowns

- Not enough volunteers
- Still working out credentialing and privileging
- Have the personnel, but not the supplies or equipment necessary.
- HB 1850 Creating a Retired Medical Worker License and out of state retirees
- First responder community unaware of MRC



Recommendations

- Find out if you have an MRC in your jurisdiction.
- Find out if you have a CERT program in your jurisdiction.
- Additional specialized training for CERT members to assist in SAR activities
- Invite volunteer organizations to be a part of your planning processes. Ask what their capabilities are; share what your current deficiencies are and find ways that those groups may be able to fill in the gaps.